



## Protecting America's Senior: The Elder Abuse Prevention Interventions Program

### BACKGROUND

Elder abuse is a substantial public health problem. It includes physical abuse, neglect, financial exploitation, sexual abuse, and emotional or psychological abuse. This abuse results in a wide range of negative health impacts, including higher rates of morbidity and mortality, an increased risk of injury, and a range of health problems and chronic conditions.

Currently, most communities do not have comprehensive elder abuse prevention efforts that engage a broad set of individuals and institutions that can play a role in combating abuse, such as health professionals, law enforcement and legal services agencies, social workers, clergy, and community organizations. Promising multidisciplinary models and certain strategies from other family violence prevention programs exist that could qualify for pilot testing elder abuse interventions.

### THE ELDER ABUSE PREVENTION INTERVENTIONS PROGRAM

The Elder Abuse Prevention Interventions Program is providing funding to States and Tribes to test interventions designed to prevent elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation. This initiative helps to implement the Elder Justice Act, which was enacted as part of the Affordable Care Act. These prevention projects will draw on existing research and promising practices, while building a stronger evidence base and improving data collection systems that are needed to more effectively address this troubling issue.

The Administration for Community Living (ACL) provided funding to the States and Tribes below. These grants will span three years.

#### State Elder Abuse Prevention Grants

Cooperative agreements totaling \$5 million were awarded to the following States:

State	Organization
Alaska	Alaska Department of Health and Social Services
California	University of California, Irvine
New York	New York State Office for the Aging
Texas	Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
Texas	University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

Anticipated outcomes include:

- Development and testing of an intervention that prevents financial exploitation and elder abuse by bringing together entities with resources and skills to form a coordinated enhanced multi-disciplinary team that includes forensic accountants;
- Piloting an intervention to increase medication adherence in older adults who have chronic health conditions and who neglect themselves in order to prevent self-neglect;
- Translate screening tools and a case management system to identify and prevent elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation in medical settings and across community-based social support programs;

### **Native American Elder Abuse Prevention Grants**

Cooperative agreements totaling \$700,000 were awarded to the following Tribal Organizations:

Tohono O'odham Nation  
Poarch Band of Creek Indians  
Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

Anticipated outcomes include:

- Development of a Multi-Disciplinary Team to address elder abuse issues in Indian Country;
- Development and testing of culturally appropriate evidence based screening tools (one to be used in a clinic setting and another for in-home visits); and
- Culturally appropriate train-the-trainer modules to improve skills on addressing and intervening with elder abuse issues.